

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PEPR PL SU

SUBJ: POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY OF THE GIEREK VISIT TO MOSCOW

REF: (A) WARSAW 3295, (B) WARSAW 3376

1. SUMMARY: POLISH PRESS COMMENTARY ON THE VISIT OF FIRST SECRETARY OF THE POLISH UNITED WORKERS' (PZPR), EDWARD GIEREK, HAILS IT AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF THE EVER-CLOSER RELATIONS BETWEEN POLAND AND THE SOVIET UNION IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE. NO SPECIFIC DETAILS OF THE GIEREK-BREZHNEV TALKS ARE REVEALED, HOWEVER. END SUMMARY.

2. AN UNSIGNED ARTICLE IN TRYBUNA LUDU OF APRIL 20 DISCUSSED THE GIEREK TRIP TO MOSCOW. IT IS A PAEAN TO THE LASTING BENEFITS OF THE POLISH ALLIANCE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. "COOPERATION AND
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FRIENDSHIP WITH THE SOVIET UNION," THE ARTICLE MAINTAINS, "ARE THE BASIC, LASTING FOUNDATIONS OF POLISH POLICY." CLOSE COOPERATION WITH THE SOVIET UNION INSURES POLAND'S ECONOMIC FUTURE. GIEREK AND BREZHNEV NOTED, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE, THE "SUCCESSFUL COURSE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGREEMENTS IN THE JOINT SOLUTION OF MANY PROBLEMS IN THE HEAVY MACHINE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, THE POWER INDUSTRY, TRANSPORT, THE PRODUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL

MACHINES AND OTHER SECTORS OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY." IN ADDITION TO A POSITIVE EVALUATION OF THE STATE OF BILATERAL RELATIONS, THE TRYBUNA LUDU ARTICLE SAYS THE TWO LEADERS UNDERTOOK "A DETERMINATION OF THE DIRECTION OF ACTIVITY AND COORDINATION OF THE FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE COUNTRIES OF THE (SOCIALIST) COMMUNITY, A SEARCH FOR NEW STIMULI IN DETENTE POLICY, AND A CONSIDERATION OF MEASURES AIMED AT LIMITING THE ARMS RACE AND INTRODUCING DISARMAMENT." GIEREK AND BREZHNEV EXPRESSED ALARM AT "THE ATTEMPTS TO ESCALATE THE ARMS RACE WHICH ARE BEING MADE IN THE UNITED STATES AND CERTAIN NATO COUNTRIES, AND THEY EXCORIATED THE NEUTRON "BOMB".

3. ARTICLES IN PRAISE OF POLAND'S SOVIET CONNECTION HAVE GLUTTED THE POLISH PRESS IN RECENT DAYS. ON APRIL 20, A FESTIVE CONCERT SPONSORED BY THE POLISH FRONT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND THE POLISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY CELEBRATED THE 33RD ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE POLISH-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION, AND MUTUAL AID TREATY. EIGHT HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF THE PZPR HEARD CHAIRMAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION TADEUSZ SRZAS Z C Z Y K, FRESH FROM EXTENDED ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS IN MOSCOW, EXTOL THE VIRTUES OF POLAND'S FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH THE USSR, "OUR FRIEND AND ALLY". FIEREK DID NOT ATTEND THE CONCERT BUT, WITH HIS TRIP TO MOSCOW, HE DEMONSTRATED HIS FEALTY TO THE SOVIET UNION AS THE PROVIDER AND PROTECTOR OF POLAND. AS TRYBUNA LUDU CONCLUDES, "THE VISIT OF THE POLISH LEADER IN MOSCOW ON THE EVE OF THE ANNIVERSARY OF THAT HISTORIC TREATY, IS ANOTHER CONFIRMA-

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TION OF ITS VITAL SUBSTANCE".

4. COMMENT: SOME WESTERN JOURNALISTS IN WARSAW BELIEVE THE MAIN PURPOSE OF THE GIEREK TRIP WAS ECONOMIC. ALTHOUGH NO ECONOMIC HEAVYWEIGHT ACCOMPANIED GIEREK, HE MAY HAVE SEALED AGREEMENTS MADE DURING THE JAROSZEWICZ AND W R Z A S Z C Z Y K STAYS IN THE SOVIET UNION, IN JANUARY AND MARCH RESPECTIVELY. ACCORDING TO ANOTHER RUMOR CIRCULATING IN WARSAW, THE SOVIETS PLAN TO USE POLAND AS A STALKING HORSE TO LAUNCH A MAJOR INITIATIVE AT THE UPCOMING SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT AT THE UN. THE GIEREK VISIT COULD HAVE BEEN AN OCCASION TO WORK OUT THE STRATEGY FOR SUCH A GAMBIT. INDICATIONS FROM THE MFA THAT POLISH REPRESENTATION AT THE SPECIAL UN DISARMAMENT SESSION WOULD BE "AT LEAST AT THE FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL" (REFTEL A) AND THE HEAVY PLAY GIVEN TO THE DISARMAMENT ASPECTS OF THE RECENT PUGWASH SYMPOSIUM (REFTEL B) LEND SOME CREDENCE TO THIS RUMOR. END COMMENT.

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